

Native Plant Growing – adding in grow lights

- Overwinter the jugs outside for a minimum of 3 months following instructions in *How To* guide.
- In early march, bring jugs in, cut off tops, and place under grow lights (about 2 inches from soil surface). Make sure soil remains moist either by using a spray mist bottle or by placing the milk jugs in a tray of water so the soil wicks up the moisture. This can be a good way to ensure the soil gets saturated without disturbing seeds and you won't have to water as often. You may have faster germination if you can invest in some heat mats (used for plants). This provides bottom heat and helps them get going a bit faster.
- Once plants sprout, adjust height of lights so light stays about 2 inches above top of the plants.
- Once plants have one or two sets of true leaves they can be transplanted into plug trays. If two species are sharing a tray, try to group plants together in trays that have similar heights so that the height of the light doesn't become a problem.
- Once the risk of frost has passed you can start placing them outside for longer and longer periods of time to get them used to the light and temperature conditions. Start on a warm day in the shade for a couple hours, then progressively get longer outside and more direct sun. Then they can be stored outside in areas that match the plants light requirements. Water the plants accordingly.
- The plants should be big enough to plant by early may.